

Oggetto: ERASMUS+, OFF Book: A New Strategic Partnership of Siena University

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Data: 26/04/2018 11:01

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CC: VIVIANI ALESSANDRA <alessandra.viviani@unisi.it>

Dear All,

Prof. Alessandra Viviani would like to inform you about **OFF Book (Objective: Foster theatrical performance to combat discrimination in schools & tackle early leaving)**, started on Nov 1st 2017 to run till Oct 31st 2019.

OFF Book is a transnational project, financed by the Erasmus+ National Agency of Lithuania (the Applicant being the University of Klaipeda) as a Strategic Partnership - School (Project n. 2017-1-LT01-KA201-035235).

The University of Siena is partner in **OFF Book** along with:

- Pixel Associazione (IT)
- **Teatro Stabile di Grosseto (IT), partner in E-WORDS, too**
- Klaipeda Puppet Theatre (LT)
- Klaipeda Simon Dach School (LT)
- Colegiul "Octav Bancila" (RO)
- Scoala primara EUROED (RO)

for a total of 8 Partners from 3 different EU Countries.

OFF-Book addresses the challenges of multiculturalism and non discrimination in schools, often leading to poor students' performance. Also Early School Leaving is often linked to social exclusion that makes classroom dynamics perceived as hostile by disadvantaged students.

Vice versa creating an inclusive school environment usually improves success rates and influence positively students' psychological self confidence and capabilities (Noel et al. (eds), Early School Leaving and Beyond, 2015).

OFF-Book expected results are:

- to improve secondary school teachers' intercultural competences in new educational methods (non formal education) to make education less 'judgemental' and more inclusive, thus promoting non discrimination and reducing Early School Leaving;
- to provide students with the opportunity to develop their soft skills, reinforce their mutual knowledge and understanding despite cultural differences and develop their social competences to combat discrimination and exploit multiculturalism as an added value

The main **OFF-Book** methodological approach is to encourage the building of a new interaction between teachers and students putting the focus on the dialogue among individuals and not on the traditional vertical teaching methods, thus breaking up the still typical logic of traditional school education and dynamics within the class communities based on the overwhelming impact of personal opinions and judgments by individuals on other individuals.

OFF-Book also aims at strengthening the profile(s) of the teaching profession by providing European secondary school teachers with the skills and competences to identify divisions within the classrooms coming from the lack of dialogue and understanding among students with different backgrounds, cultures, attitudes and personal beliefs and propose innovative methods, **based on the use of performing arts**.

The use of performing arts in educational environments, with a special focus on innovative **Theatrical Laboratories**, differs from traditional ones currently adopted in school environments that are widely used only for artistic purposes, replicating the logic of the "theatre of the adults", such as 'role playing' (actors impersonating characters, putting aside their own characteristics).

In contrast, in **OFF-Book** teachers are qualified to use **Theatrical Laboratories as educational tools**, whose pedagogical potential can help students to show their personality knocking down the fear of being judged, or of being considered "different", which is tightly linked to discrimination and hostile social environments.

To be informed on **OFF-Book** activities, please visit regularly the **Project portal** (<https://off-book.pixel-online.org/index.php>) and **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/OFF-Book-2044670662419368/>), where you can 'like', share and comments our posts.

For further info, please contact: alessandra.viviani@unisi.it and/or simonetta.michelotti@unisi.it

Thanks for your attention!

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Simonetta Michelotti (PhD)

Settore Ricerca

Dept of Political & International Sciences

Office Hrs: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

—Allegati:—

Off-Book Brochure.pdf

2,2 MB